

United States Air Force

Leader

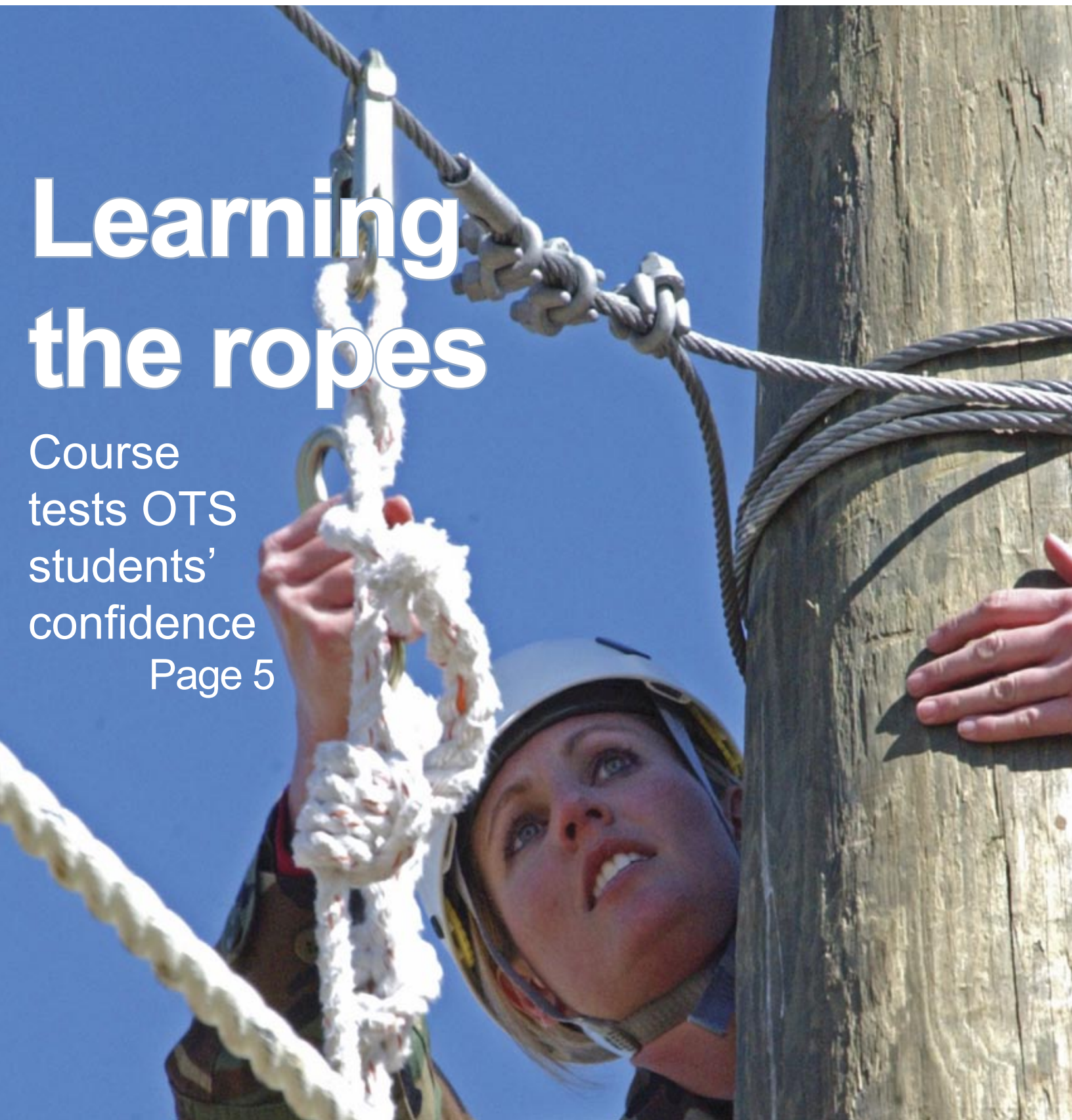
March 2006

Magazine for Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools

Learning the ropes

Course
tests OTS
students'
confidence

Page 5



Right: A n Officer Training School student pulls herself across a single rope in February. The obstacle is a part of the Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., Ropes Exercise Conditioning Course.

Cover: A Officer Training School student secures her hooks as she moves on to the next section of the ropes course in February. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott Moorman)



Leader

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

1 JROTC implements changes

OTS

2 OTS students take to the skies

ROTC

5 Anti-hackers' training camp

12 Battle ready, FTX prepares cadets for Air Force deployments

14 War Games simulate Air Force combat capabilities

16 Air Force cadets accept the Ranger challenge

JROTC

10 Cadet cares for others during Hurricane Katrina

21 Building better citizens, one cadet at a time

22 Junior ROTC unit receives first staff assistance visit

23 Success never tasted so good

24 Cadets benefit from base tours



Leader

Editorial Staff

Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools commander
Brig. Gen. Ronnie B. Hawkins Jr.

Air Force ROTC commander
Col. Steven Wayne

Air Force OTS commander
Col. David K. Gerber

Air Force JROTC director
Col. Norm Balchunas

Air University Public Affairs director
Maj. Gregg Bottemiller

AFOATS public affairs
Phil Berube

Managing editor
Karl Duckworth

Editor
Senior Airman Krista Coons

Staff writer
Tech. Sgt. Scott Moorman

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JROTC implements changes

New curriculum and fitness program transform cadet corps

By Senior Airman Krista Coons

Leader Editor

Junior ROTC units across the nation are experiencing the waves of change. The Junior ROTC director, Col. Norm Balchunas, has introduced new programs to challenge and transform the cadet corps.

"Junior ROTC provides a fantastic framework for young students to develop discipline and self-esteem," said Colonel Balchunas.

The new programs are designed to mirror the Air Force mission and to improve the Junior ROTC mission of developing citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community.

"We are going to put more emphasis on a global studies perspective as part of aerospace studies, while backing off of the history of flight and historic programs. The shift places more emphasis on cultural awareness, in order to focus on America's interest in other global locations; that is an essential part of building a good citizen," he said.

The new curriculum program will be tested on 15 new units and 35 established units this year. The Junior ROTC headquarters will gather the inputs to evaluate the ease of instruction and cadet reaction.

"Our greatest challenge will be at the ninth-grade level and trying to retain cadets in the program. We need to create a curriculum that gets our cadets excited, involved, and realize that Junior ROTC is cool and that it is something they want to do and be part of," said Colonel

Balchunas.

"The aerospace science one curriculum for freshmen is being re-tooled to make it an active, participatory program highlighting all the best components of the aerospace science one through three curriculums," added Lt. Col. John Kiecana, chief Junior ROTC curriculum.

Physical fitness and wellness are also being re-evaluated. In the past, the fitness program was primarily a voluntary activity since the course was broken into 60 percent aerospace studies and 40 percent leadership, with drill and physical training as an extra activity after school.

"We want to make sure that physical training is a regular part of our program by supporting it with our lesson plans and resources," said the colonel. "We are changing the curriculum to become 40 percent aerospace, 40 percent leadership and 20 percent drill and physical training."

As an incentive, Colonel Balchunas will send the top three units of varying cadet corps sizes who meet his first director's challenge to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, in May. The program, which kicked off in February, will wrap up with an awards ceremony at Wright-Patterson.

"The winner will be scored on maximum participation in the President's Challenge events, and as a tiebreaker, we will be using the (president's fitness challenge's) scores," said Capt. Derrick Modest, chief of assessment branch. "But what we



Photo by Senior Airman Krista Coons

Col. Norm Balchunas, Junior ROTC director, is changing the program to better reflect the new Air Force mission.

are after is maximum participation. We're not looking for elite athletes where one group of five competes against another group of five — we want to see everyone participating."

Colonel Balchunas also wants to see his staff more involved in unit activities. He welcomes opportunities from the field to visit with the units and take an active role to include drill meets, physical training sessions and classroom lectures.

"We appreciate invitations from units looking for guest lecturers or to challenge us for physical training. Our job is not to sit here at a desk and make policy, but to support the units," he added. ■

OTS

takes to the skies

By Tech Sgt. Scott Moorman
Air University Public Affairs



Officer Training School trainees at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., will have to take to the air while preparing to be officers. The OTS Ropes Exercise Conditioning Course is an aerial challenge that has been added to the confidence course in December.

The ropes exercise requires students to wear a harness with double safety clips and use a series of ropes to cross spans of telephone poles stretched 20 feet apart while ascending more than 35 feet in the air. At the end of this challenge, students are attached to a pulley and zip down a guide wire to the ground.

"The ropes course was created to add another dimension to the course that was a very mild test of officer's ability to build personal confidence by overcoming fears and negotiating physical obstacles," said Col. Dave Gerber, Officer Training School commander.

The ropes course makes students train carefully and follow procedures, pay attention to instructions and learn to trust their equipment, training and teammates, said Colonel Gerber.

"Just as in aviation, if our students master these skills, a potentially dangerous activity actually becomes safe and enjoyable," he said. "The students boost their personal confidence and courage at the same time."

Maj. George Scheers, 24th Training Squadron student commander, had the opportunity to participate in the grand opening of the ropes course.

"I think the ropes course was awesome," he said "No doubt, it taught every one something about themselves."

Major Scheers said the course made him face his fears and focus mentally and physically on the challenges. He was also pleased with the



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Scott Moorman

Opposite page: Officer Training School students carefully walk on a single rope bridge about 35 feet above ground at the Officer Training School's Ropes Exercise Course in February.

Above: A OTS student prepares to jump from a log to a rope ladder.

confidence he gained as a facilitator.

"It's one thing to put your life in your own hands on a knot you tied," he said. "It's a whole new level of knowing that others will rely solely on my competence in rigging gear and trusting in my peers that have done the same."

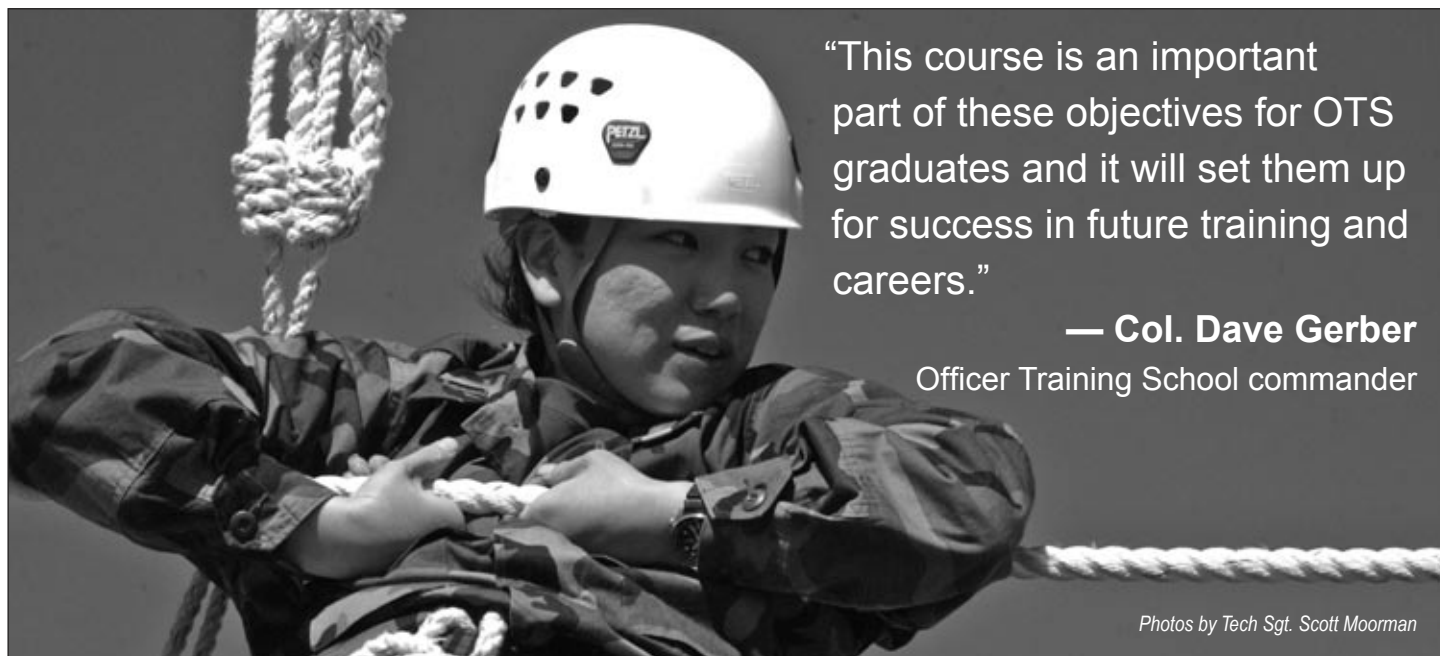
Colonel Gerber did stress the importance of safety involved in the ropes course.

"All instructors must complete

one week of training on the core procedures, safety precautions and emergency procedures," he said.

OTS has trained 20 instructors. They have also opened instructor training slots to the Air and Space Basic Course staff. ASBC has three trained instructors and are assessing how to integrate the course into the curriculum.

According to Colonel Gerber, the ropes course has been used safely



"This course is an important part of these objectives for OTS graduates and it will set them up for success in future training and careers."

— **Col. Dave Gerber**
Officer Training School commander

Photos by Tech Sgt. Scott Moorman



in dozens of military installations throughout the United States, but the OTS course is the second one on an Air Force base that is currently in use.

Colonel Gerber said new officers need to be expeditionary leaders and lead from the front, while overcoming fear through training experiences. He also said officers need to learn how to decrease risk in a dangerous situation.

"This course is an important part of these objectives for OTS graduates and it will set them up for success in future training and careers," Colonel Gerber added.

Master Sgt. Paul Smith, 22nd Training Support Squadron, superintendent of field training flight, feels the ropes course will be a huge asset to both OTS and Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Ala.

"After completing the course and talking to other individuals, we all felt it was a real physical challenge and allowed us the opportunity to

face some fears and work our way through each event," he said. "This will truly benefit OTS students."

Capt. Maggie Peterson, 24th Training Squadron executive officer and flight commander, said the course was surprisingly difficult but reinforced a lot of concepts taught at OTS.

"I haven't been pushed that far out of my comfort zone in a long time," she said. "Up in the air, little things make a big difference."

Captain Peterson said the course opens a whole new test of leadership by successfully motivating someone who is terrified of trying.

"If I can successfully do that here, the next time I need to see someone through something frightening, I'll have the tools available to succeed," she said.

Colonel Gerber summed up the course in a few words.

"Building personal courage and confidence is a key component of officer training," he said. ■

Above: An Officer Training School student hangs on to a rope as she maneuvers her way through the ropes course on Feb. 9.

Left: An OTS student helps his fellow classmate as she moves on to the next obstacle in the ropes course.

Anti-hackers' training camp

An intensive summer program drills students on cyber-security skills

By Dan Carnevale

The Chronicle of Higher Education

It is 8 a.m. on a Monday, and war is about to break out. Four teams of a dozen college students, most dressed in camouflage fatigues, gather on a former Air Force base to spend two days attacking each other.

This is no ordinary war game. The weaponry is an arsenal of laptop and desktop computers, and the students' goal is to hack the other teams' machines and bring down their systems.

>> on Page 6

>> from Page 5

The “Hackfest” marks the end of a Cyber Security Boot Camp run by Syracuse University’s Advanced Course in Engineering and the U.S. Air Force as a training ground for future technology-security leaders.

The program, created in 2003, lasts for 10 weeks over the summer and teaches students how to break into computer systems so they can protect against such attacks. Students are also required to complete military-leadership and physical-training components that satisfy ROTC requirements, including a weekly eight-mile run.

Kamal Jabbour, on leave as an associate professor of computer engineering at Syracuse, is the creator of the program. He is now a senior computer engineer — a civilian employee — at the Air Force Research Laboratory here, and he sees cyberterrorism as one of the greatest threats to the United States in the coming years.

“In simple terms, 9/11 could happen today without one terrorist getting on a plane,” says Mr. Jabbour. “Our goal is to make sure it doesn’t happen.”

He says nuclear power plants and other industrial sites may be vulnerable to catastrophic attacks by a clever hacker who wants to wreak havoc by breaking into computer networks. Even if such a large-scale disruption never occurs, hacker attacks and computer viruses already cost businesses and governments billions of dollars each year, and such attacks are becoming more sophisticated and disruptive. A virtual arms race has begun, he says,

between computer-security experts and evildoers.

‘No Excuses, No Extensions’

Mr. Jabbour wants to teach more than just technical skills to these cybersecurity troops. He hopes to instill a take-no-prisoners attitude — a sense of urgency that typical civilian computer-science experts might lack.

Mr. Jabbour, a disciplined athlete who runs marathons and is originally from Lebanon, sports a crew cut and black running shoes, along with slacks, button-down short-sleeve shirt, and a tie featuring runners crossing a finish line. The program he created reflects his ideals: “No excuses. No extensions. No exceptions.” He has a strict set of rules for the participants.

Applicants must have a 3.0 grade-point average and be able to run five miles in less than an hour. Students who are accepted log about 70 to 80 hours of work each week. In return, they receive a \$4,500 stipend and four college credit hours.

This year 56 students participated in the program, including some of last year’s students who came back to act as advisers. Students, most of whom participate in their colleges’ ROTC program, live in dormitories on what used to be Griffiss Air Force Base, now the site of the Rome Laboratory of the Air Force Research Laboratory. No alcohol is allowed, and students’ rooms are subject to inspection to make sure they meet military requirements of neatness.

At the beginning of the program, Mr. Jabbour plays a clip from the movie *Apollo 13* depicting Gene

Kranz (played by Ed Harris), a NASA flight director, urging his engineers to come up with creative solutions to save three astronauts tumbling through space in the failed moon mission. Mr. Jabbour tells the students he expects them to abide by the same “failure is not an option” philosophy.

“Here we teach them from Day 1 that there are no excuses,” Mr. Jabbour says. “We put them under tremendous pressure.”

The program consists of several courses on cybersecurity, including cryptography, steganography (the art and science of hiding information by embedding messages within others), digital forensics, network security, and wireless security. The courses are taught on an accelerated level by visiting professors from institutions such as Syracuse and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Some professors essentially cover a semester’s worth of material in a single eight-hour session, says Mr. Jabbour.

Every week students must submit a written report analyzing a security problem and presenting a solution. The reports, which are sometimes required to be as long as 50 pages, must be turned in at 8 a.m. on the day they are due. One second late, and the student will get no credit for the assignment.

The rules that seem most onerous to many of the students are the ones covering writing style. They include the following: Students cannot use colons, semicolons, exclamation marks, or question marks, nor can they separate a phrase with a dash. No sentence can begin with the words “and,” “but,” or “because.”

Students cannot use passive voice, or words like “could,” “would,” and “should.” Instead, they must use “must” to describe a policy or requirement. Students cannot end a sentence with a preposition.

“The goal is to communicate, not to impress,” says Mr. Jabbour. “Simplicity improves communication.”

“In simple terms, 9/11 could happen today without one terrorist getting on a plane. Our goal is to make sure it doesn’t happen.”

— Kamal Jabbour

Air Force Research Laboratory senior computer engineer

At least one of the students grudgingly admits that the rules improved his writing. “I went to computer camp and learned leadership and writing,” says Matthew Zayatz, a computer-science and geology senior at the State University of New York at Binghamton. “I didn’t expect that.”

During each week, students have internships with local companies and organizations so they can learn real-world applications of cybersecurity.

Even with such a heavy workload, students spend their spare time using their computers and studying the art of hacking.

The mandatory weekly run, which begins at 7 a.m. every Friday, ensures that the students do not spend too much time sitting in front of their computer screens.

Mr. Jabbour joins the students in the weekly ritual as a way to get to know them. The workout is integral to the spirit of the boot camp, he says. “Everything involved in the course requires physical endurance,” he says.

The students like to call themselves “geeks,” but they don’t want that title to fool anyone. “You have to reverse the stereotype that computer types are fat and sit at their computers with a bag of Cheetos,” said Jon Ketchum, a computer-science senior at Northern Arizona University.

Cutthroat Competition

By the time the Hackfest begins, the students have gotten serious about their tasks, and the competition is cutthroat.

The students crowd into a room with \$180,000 worth of computer equipment and a tangled mess of wires. The four teams are separated only by a blue curtain that runs nearly the length of the room in each direction. Music from classic rock bands, such as Lynyrd Skynyrd and Aerosmith, plays softly over the speaker system.

The groups get color codes — blue, green, red, and yellow. To provide a flavor of realism, each team also receives a fictional company name representing a particular industry that could be susceptible to a hacker attack. The blue team is Iam-Sikenski Hospital. Green is 8-Mile Nuclear Energy. Red is Hackeysack National Airport. And Yellow is Iagotoo-Gas Inc. Those groups are broken into two subgroups — one to attack and one to defend the group’s systems.

Each team earns points by capturing virtual flags in their opponents’ computers. Every team has the same number of flags stored in the same area on its computer system. And a team can earn points by stealing another’s flag only if the team successfully protects its corresponding flag at the same time.

Phil Scheiderich, a security consultant with the computer-security firm Symantec and the project manager for the Hackfest, set up the rules of the game and planted the flags. “Much of this design does simulate the real world,” he says.

The battles themselves involve wading through complex computer code. To a visitor not versed in hacking, the screens appear to flash with technical gibberish as the students determine how to break into their opponents’ systems and steal their flags.

The students revel in the competition, as well as the unique chance to hack into other computers at will. “There’s never going to be another opportunity like this to destroy computers and not worry about it,” says Drew Terry, an electrical-engineering senior at Purdue University. “Someday we’ll be on the other side of this, defending computers.”

Mr. Ketchum, the Northern Arizona student, says the boot camp offers more than what can be found at a typical college program, generally because most colleges would not want to take on the liability of teaching students to become proficient hackers. “They’re giving you tools that are dangerous,”

he says.

But Mr. Jabbour says the best way to protect against hackers is to learn to think like one. Besides, he says, each of the students must go through a military background check before they enter the boot camp, so he feels he can trust them.

Final Attacks

By the final round, the green team has established an all-but-insurmountable lead by capturing flags from the other teams and valiantly guarding its own. The red team is in second place, with the blue team not far behind and slowly gaining.

“We’re hanging onto second place by the hair on our heads,” says Mr. Zayatz of the red team, pointing to his bald-shaved head. “We’re going to fashion an attack against the third-place people.”

Ryan Van Den Heuvel, a computer-science senior from Michigan Technological University, who is on the blue team, says his team is doing whatever it takes to squeak past the red team for second place. He spends the final hours scanning different servers to look for vulnerabilities.

“At this point you look for any available systems,” says Mr. Van Den Heuvel. “You have to be incredibly patient.”

The referees scan the computers at random intervals to see which team has which flags. Each round, the blue team inches closer to the red team.

When the final results are in, the green team keeps its commanding lead and begins celebrating. One of the team members uses his iPod to play the Eminem song “8 Mile” in honor of the team’s company name, 8-Mile Nuclear Energy.

Which team won second place?

“There is no second place,” Mr. Jabbour says. “There will be winners and losers. I don’t want anyone to be under the illusion that the United States can come in second in any war.” ■

*Courtesy photo*

Cadets earn parachute badge

By Cadet Karl Meyer

Det. 025, Arizona State University, Ariz.

At nearly 2,000 feet above the ground Cadet Seth Paulsen can't believe how close the ground really is. Flying in a C-130 aircraft, the 26-year-old prior

enlisted cadet is about to do the most extreme thing he has ever done in his life. Yet all he can do now is review his training one last time and hope nothing goes wrong. In this situation, lives are on the line and

tensions are high — there can be no mistakes.

Cadet Aaron Hayner is experiencing a similar ride. The 21-year-old has gone through an intense training routine that has tested him both mentally and physically. In his aircraft, several other Army and Air Force cadets, officers and enlisted personnel, sit next to one another — game faces on, waiting to leap.

According to Cadet Hayner, “Some look focused, some look terrified and there are even a few who are praying. You feel anxious and nervous; it’s just adrenaline building and building,” he said. Yet the prayers and fears are not in vain. While accidents are rare, they can be deadly, and with only two chutes and a limited window of opportunity to deploy, there is little room for error or hesitation.

Of all the ROTC Professional Development Training Programs, the Army Airborne Training program is one of the most selective. Preparation begins early for those who wish to apply with potential candidates. To score well on the Army physical fitness test, candidates must focus on push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups and a two-mile run.

“To prepare I did as many push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups as I could and ran everyday,” Cadet Hayner said. That was in addition to scheduled wing physical training sessions which he often led. Cadet Paulsen also subjected himself to a similar routine of intense physical training.

Upon being selected for the program, the real test begins. Army Airborne training is conducted at Fort Benning, Ga., in the middle of summer. The heat and humidity combined with daily physical training and five-mile formation runs can push people to their extremes.

Consequently, preparation is key.



Courtesy photos

Cadet Aaron Hayner, left, and Cadet Seth Paulsen earned a parachute badge, below, during a summer Army Airborne Training Program.

“We normally had 12- to 14- hour training days,” said Cadet Paulsen. “We ran everywhere, all the time.”

On top of the conventional fitness training, airborne training exercises tested the cadets as well. “Learning how to fall properly was hard, but learning how to fall over and over again is painful,” said Cadet Hayner.

However, the training is very valuable, said Cadet Paulsen. While simulated jumps and five-mile runs can prepare someone physically for a jump, being mentally prepared to undertake the actual feat entirely relies upon the cadet. “After the first jump, everyone starts getting used to it,” Cadet Paulsen said. “But that first time is unbelievable. There’s no time to think, you just go because if you don’t, it could re-



ally hurt someone.”

After successfully completing three live jumps, the cadets both earned their basic parachutist’s wings. The grueling 24-hour-day training program tested these cadets, yet both agree the program was well worth it. “I recommend it to anyone who has a lot of self motivation and can push their limits,” said Cadet Hayner with a cautious grin. Cadet Paulsen also agreed: “If you want to go, prepare yourself! It was definitely worth the pain.”

Hurricane hero:

18-year-old honored for post-storm deeds

By Earl Hodges
The Times-Picayune

While thousands of people were evacuating the New Orleans area hours before Hurricane Katrina devastated the city, Riverdale High School, La., Junior ROTC Cadet Mark Gibson chose to stay behind with two of his cousins who didn't have a way to evacuate.

"I felt it was my responsibility to stay and help any way I could," said Cadet Gibson. "Also, one of my cousins has frequent seizures and needs his medicine daily."

For his actions during and after Hurricane Katrina, he was awarded the Air Force Humanitarian Award. The honor, which is an award that recognizes outstanding humanitarian accomplishments of Junior ROTC members, was given to Cadet Gibson in a ceremony in December at Riverdale.

"Mark could have left, but he chose to stay behind to help other people," said retired Lt. Col. Jim Webb, LA-934 senior aerospace science instructor. "Because of the heroism Mark displayed, he and his cousins are now safe and healthy. It is a story of love, loyalty, dedication, selflessness and bravery."

While Cadet Gibson's mother, Charisse Gibson, and other family members evacuated to Lake Charles, Cadet Gibson stayed with his cousins in their Valmont Street home in New Orleans.

"At first, I thought everything was going to be OK when the hurricane had passed," Cadet Gibson said. "But then the levee broke and the water started rising. I knew then we had to



do something."

Using a small rowboat, Cadet Gibson said he helped his cousins and a neighbor navigate through the city's flooded streets to the convention center, where he also used his Junior ROTC training to assist others.

"I'm thankful for the four years that I've been in Junior ROTC," he said. "The leadership skills that I learned really helped me. I had also learned in Junior ROTC how to prepare the meals (Meals, Ready-to-Eat). So I used my experience to show other people how to prepare them. I guess you could say that I started a class on MRE preparations."

Colonel Webb said he wasn't surprised when he heard about what Cadet Gibson did to help others.

"Mark is a leader in school and in the Junior ROTC," Colonel Webb said. "He is always willing to take the extra step to help people. Mark's story is a splendid example of bravery and compassion."

Even though the four days he spent at the Convention Center were filled with chaos, Cadet Gibson said that's not what he will remember most.

"The thing that impressed me the



Courtesy photos

Top right: Cadet Mark Gibson leads his flight into the NASA Challenger learning facility at Louisiana Jan. 23.

Above: Cadet Gibson sprints to the finish line at the Ponchatula Regional Drill Meet, La., Feb. 4.

most were the many families who had huddled together," he said. "They had so much love for each other. They were caring for each other and trying to survive. I'll always remember the love that I saw." ■

Notre Dame cadets honor veterans

By Cadets Laura Vergez and Jen Richard

Det. 225, University of Notre Dame, Ind.

To honor the nation's veterans and recognize their many sacrifices, Det. 225 cadets showed their respect for military servicemen and women in a variety of ways in November. Several cadets attended a lecture given by three Tuskegee Airmen, some of America's aviation pioneers during World War II, while other cadets held a 24-hour vigil at Stonehenge Memorial, a World War II monument at the University of Notre Dame, Ind., campus.

The Tuskegee Airmen came to the University of Notre Dame to share their inspiring stories. As African Americans, the men broke racial barriers while serving the nation in war. The men, retired Maj. Gen. Lucius Theus, retired Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson and retired Lt. Col. Washington DuBois Ross, all served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II fighting the Nazi in Germany.

"These Airmen broke a lot of barriers and were not expected to succeed. However, they were the only fighter escort squadron in Italy to have never lost a bomber they escorted — a pretty incredible record," said Col. Michael Zenk, an aerospace studies department chair.

"We owe them a debt of gratitude not only for serving their country, but also for showing us all how to succeed against huge odds. Each of these three served in the military with distinction and then served their fellow man in the civilian life as



Photo by Cadet Ashley Shelton

Brittany Shelton, a Silver Wings member, and Cadet Gus Fajardo man a Veterans Day Vigil table at the University of Notre Dame, Ind., in November.

well," Colonel Zenk added.

The Tuskegee Airmen came not only to share their own war stories, but also to motivate the cadets in Air Force ROTC. As veterans, they believe it is important for today's youth to learn lessons from the past and apply them to the future.

"We Tuskegee Airmen enjoy getting together with fine young people because you fine young people are indeed the future of America," said General Theus. "I think it is important to have an understanding of the history of your nation."

Cadets also organized another special event for Veteran's Day — a 24-hour vigil. Members from Army,

Navy and Air Force ROTC cadets guarded the World War II monument as a part of the vigil.

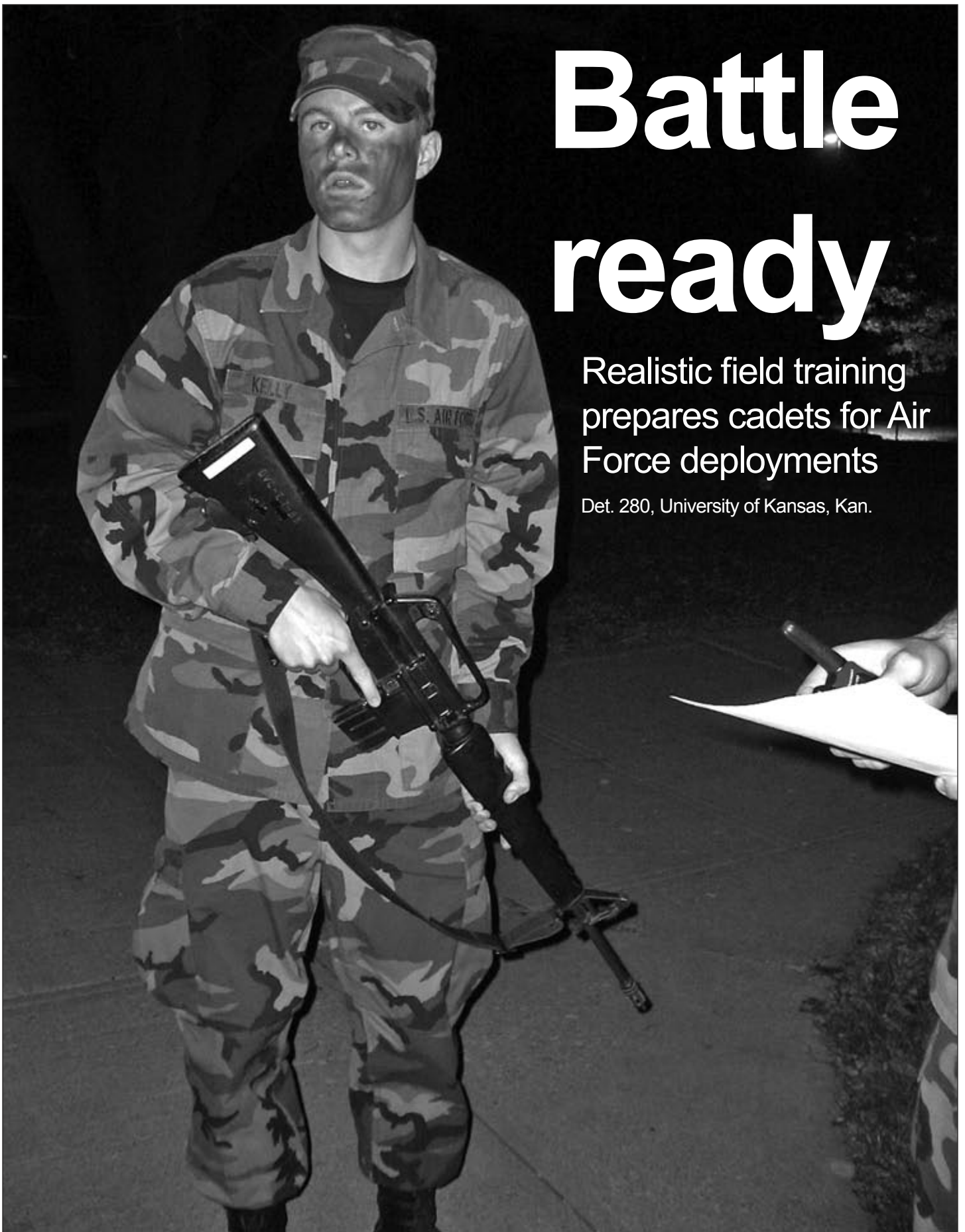
Onlookers commented on how the vigil reminded them of America's military members and their great sacrifices. The event also sent a powerful message to the members of ROTC at Notre Dame.

"I was honored to make the vigil happen," said Cadet John Henderson, the event organizer. "It made cadets sacrifice some time from their busy schedules to take part in the vigil. Although our sacrifices are small in comparison, it is the least we can do to show our support and respect for America's veterans." ■

Battle ready

Realistic field training
prepares cadets for Air
Force deployments

Det. 280, University of Kansas, Kan.





Courtesy photo

Above: From left to right: Det. 280 Cadets Arturo Febry, Alex Carrera and Garrett Kohl develop plans to simulate combat control duties during a field training exercise at the University of Kansas.

Left: Det. 280 Cadet Sean-Michael Kelly maintains situational awareness during his patrol at a field training exercise at the University of Kansas.

The senior ROTC Det. 280 staff at the University of Kansas designs a field training exercise each semester to help fulfill various cadet leadership laboratory requirements.

Senior Cadet Craig Lee and his staff used the knowledge they gained from speaking with members from other services to focus their fall training on conducting military operations and implementing force protection measures against terrorist threats.

Although most cadets are exposed to specific Air Force career fields, the Det. 280 field training helped many cadets to better understand how different Airmen with diverse skills work together to accomplish complex tasks. The exercise began with intelli-

gence, medical and weather briefings.

The presentations help cadets understand their responsibilities for the evening and to stay safe. They also displayed three jobs critical to successful Air Force missions.

During the FTX, cadets were assigned to security forces, combat engineers and pilot teams. Cadets honed their leadership skills by playing the role of team commander. Each group had to work together to meet mission requirements, such as locating a downed pilot or securing an air field.

To challenge the teams even further, the senior staff employed several tactics designed to reflect situations faced by Airmen at the forefront of the Global War on Terrorism. Oppo-

sition forces, led by other cadets, simulated car bombings, fake surrenders and suicide attacks in an attempt to prevent the teams from completing their objectives. Cadets with foreign language skills were used to represent both terrorists and innocent civilians. This scenario provided a realistic challenge for cadets to try to communicate with individuals who did not respond to English.

The FTX completed two objectives. First, cadets were exposed to some of the difficult situations faced by the Air Force, along with our coalition partners in the Global War on Terrorism. Second and most important, cadets improved their ability to work as a team and work together to accomplish the Air Force mission. ■

War games simulate Air Force combat capabilities

By Cadet Elliot W. Brouse

Det. 355, Boston University, Mass.

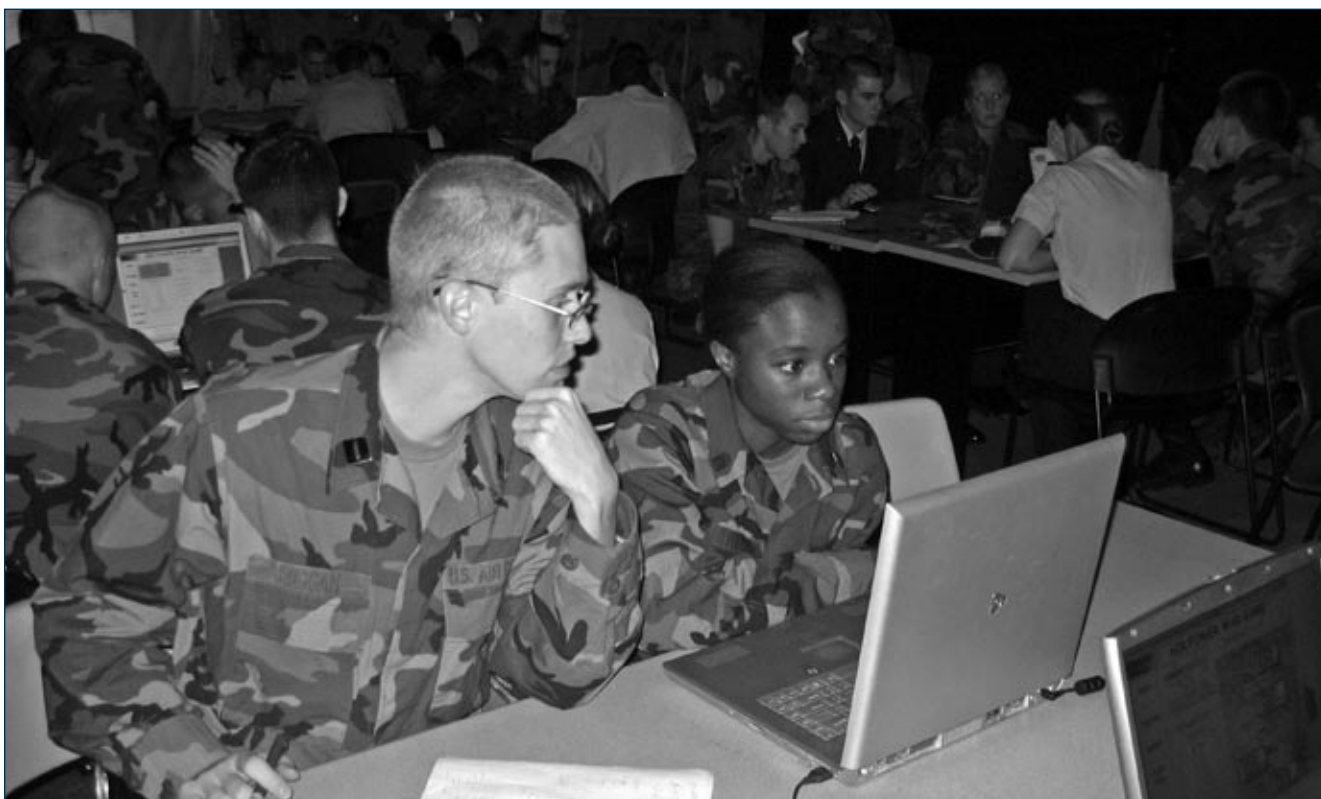


Photo by 2nd Lt. Thomas Lerner

Det. 355 Cadets James Riggan and Kunbi Adewunmi conduct a wargaming exercise in a simulated air operations center during a leadership lab session in November.

Boston University, Mass., cadets demonstrated their quick decision-making skills in November during a war game that simulated the air campaign portion of Operation Desert Storm. In the exercise, the cadets worked together on various missions and target specific enemy locations to understand what it takes to conduct a rapid, yet decisive air war campaign.

The leadership lab was named Operation Butter Churn as an ac-

knowledgment of the cadets' reason for training.

"Operation Butter Churn was given that name because at Det. 355, we are in the business of producing second lieutenants for the Air Force. But before our future leaders can pin those butter bars to their shoulders, they have to do the work ... they have to churn the butter. What we've done here is put a challenge before cadets that they could not overcome without relying on the training and education they received throughout the semester. The complete package

of (the introductory) leadership labs and the simulated air campaign provided the cadets with a knowledge of how the Air Force goes to war, and that knowledge will serve them both at the Air and Space Basic Course and in whatever career fields they enter upon graduation," said Cadet Chapa, cadet wing commander.

Twenty-four computers were set up to support the 20 teams playing the game and three projectors displayed updated information with what was taking place on the simulated battlefield. The room was

blackout except for the computer screens and red ambient lamps, providing a more realistic atmosphere of what cadets may experience in the operational Air Force.

"Even something as simple as a bank of computers set up on tables in a dimly lit campus warehouse provided our cadets with a realistic view of what a combat air operations center is and the role it plays ... so learning what goes on there is essential to understanding the big picture," said Col. John Pardo Jr., Det. 355 commander.

The cadre and cadet wing staff acted as observers and provided tips on strategy throughout the gaming process. The set-up forced upper-class cadets into leadership roles. Upon completion of the exercise, teams were debriefed by members of the cadet wing staff who questioned them on their outcome, the number of air tasking orders it took to reach their outcome, as well as what they thought they did correctly and incorrectly throughout the process.

The cadets were asked to describe what they learned about the implementation of aircraft, weapons and missions in relation to how it applied not only to the game scenario, but also wartime conditions.

Operation Butter Churn helped cadets understand what it is like to be on active duty. It also accomplished the goal of using everyone in the wing for an effective training exercise while increasing esprit de corps and allowing professional officer course and general military course cadets to work together in an environment where they can learn from one another and foster mutual respect and appreciation. This exercise gave cadets a glimpse into the Air Force mission and how Airmen accomplish our commander-in-chief's national objectives.

"Operation Butter Churn brought me closer to the Air Force than anything else we have done. Now when people ask me 'What does the Air Force do?' I know exactly how to answer them," said Cadet Joseph Migliaccio. ■

Cadets aid TV show

By Cadet Charles Nance

Det. 630, Kent State University, Ohio



Courtesy photo

Cadet Adam Kurzen holds back the crowd as they wait for the unveiling of a home on the ABC television show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" in October.

Kent State University, Ohio, cadets received cheers of praise and enthusiasm for representing the Air Force and armed services while providing crowd control and general security backup for a national television show in October.

Neighbors of an Ohioan family who lost their wife and mother wrote to the producers of the ABC television show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

Their heartfelt words and stories showed the executives and producers of the show that this was a just cause. After a solid week of work, the building crew transformed the family's home, and the newly remodeled home was ready to be unveiled to the family on Oct. 19. The producers, foreseeing a massive turnout for the unveiling, felt that they needed additional crowd control and security personnel.

The show's producers contacted the Det. 630 commander, Lt. Col. Maria Schreffler, to ask for help in the final

unveiling of the show's project. Colonel Schreffler put the call out to the cadets of Det. 630. Cadre told cadets that they would probably not be on television, but this did not sway their enthusiasm or motivation. More than 30 cadets showed up to assist in the endeavor. Upon arrival at the work site, the gathered crowd of spectators greeted the cadets with cheers.

Throughout the day, spectators requested just as many photo opportunities with cadets as they did stars of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. Det. 630 cadets spent about seven hours assisting the local security detail, greeting and talking to spectators, as well as enjoying the festivities of the day, said a Det. 630 cadet.

"I am very proud of the work the cadets of Det. 630 put forth on such short notice. This is an experience many of them will remember for the rest of their lives" said Cadet Jason Brown, Det. 630 cadet wing commander. ■

No obstacle too tough

Air Force cadets accept the Ranger challenge

Det. 425, Mississippi State University, Miss.

Armey Rangers are some of the most elite fighters in the world. Their training is rigorous and only the best earn a Ranger tab. The Ranger Challenge is an Army ROTC college competition held annually in the spirit of the Army Rangers in November.

This year, Det. 425 fielded their first full Air Force ROTC team to compete in the Viking Brigade's Ranger Challenge. The Air Force Ranger Challenge Team competed in the head-to-head competition among several universities with six teams participating. The teams are composed of 11 members, with two alternates, with a minimum of one female.

The event, hosted by Mississippi State University's Army ROTC Bulldog Battalion, consisted of a one-rope bridge, land navigation test, an Army physical training test, hand grenade assault course, weapons assembly/disassembly and a 5K rucksack run.

The teams learn leadership, followership, teamwork and joint training/operations. Just two weeks before the competition the commandant of cadets, Maj. Phillip Sandlin, was given the go ahead to field an Air Force team and within an hour an Air Force ROTC team had been formed. The volunteers had some catching up to do in more areas than one, but the Army's Bulldog Battalion was equally as eager to lend a hand.

"Through the practices and com-

petition with the Army Ranger Challenge team, the importance of the concept of joint warfare was continually reinforced. I learned much more about what the Army cadets go through. In the process, I have also gained a greater respect for the role they will perform as future Army officers," said Cadet Jeremy Cantrell.

The Air Force cadets trained every day along side the Army team in order to be in the best possible physical condition. Additionally, most Air Force cadets had never held a hand-grenade, assembled an M-16 rifle, tied ropes or conducted land navigation, let alone built the teamwork skills associated with these events. The Army team and cadre from Det. 425's partner Mississippi State University detachment helped to train the cadets to meet the challenge.

"We pretty much had a crash course on everything and in some cases the event was the first time some of our team members were introduced to them. I had a blast doing this ... it was awesome getting to work side-by-side with the Army and see how they do things. It was time consuming but worth it in the end," said Cadet J. Boston Little.

The first event was the Army physical fitness test, where each had to do as many push-ups and sit-ups as they could within two minutes for each exercise. The cadets then ran a timed two-mile run. Next was the hand grenade assault course. The course required cadets to sprint from one station to the next in full gear and then drop down behind a

wall and throw a hand grenade at or into a target. Grenades were thrown standing, kneeling, laying down and while doing the low and high crawl at different stations.

"The grenade assault course was harder than it looked. For example, you think that it wouldn't be hard to throw a grenade in a circle, but the grenade tends to bounce like a ping-pong ball," said Cadet Ed King. "Just when you think that it's going to make the circle or stay in it, it either doesn't make the distance or it bounces out. Throwing it through a window 50 yards away was near impossible."

The cadets ate a Meal-Ready to Eat and pressed on to the next event — orienteering. Orienteering involved land navigation and finding a way to several locations and scenarios on a map.

The next competition for the Ranger Challenge cadets to complete was the timed one-rope bridge. The team had to construct a bridge and then each cadet had to pull themselves across a rope without falling or touching the ground. The cadets also participated in the weapons assembly and disassembly portion, where they sprinted 50 yards, put an M-16 together, made sure it fired properly, disassembled it, put it back in the box and sprinted 50 yards back to the finish.

Finally, 10 hours later the cadets completed the 5K rucksack run while wearing a full uniform and carrying an M-16.

"I feel our team did extremely



well considering the circumstances and time constraints we had to train under. We impressed everyone involved in the event and really gave insight to the mettle of our cadets and training program of Det. 425. I would really like to see us become eligible for awards in future events and would definitely like to make this an annual event for the detachment,” said Cadet Curtis Lloyd.

“I feel the ranger challenge was a great experience. I learned a lot, and I think that we can all benefit from working in a joint environment. We definitely formed great relations with our Army counterparts, and I think that will help us do better business in the future,” said Cadet Jonathan Wing.

Although the Air Force team did not win any trophies, the cadets did receive other recognitions. Air Force Cadet Sabrina Dupre’ took top honors with the highest female physical training score, and the team finished the 5K rucksack run with the fastest time.



Courtesy photo

Top Right: A Det. 425 cadet moves along a one-rope bridge that his team built moments earlier.

Lower Right: Cadets pace themselves in the 5K rucksack run at the annual Army ROTC Ranger Challenge at Mississippi State University, Miss.

“What a neat experience being an icebreaker because doing something for the first time presented many challenges we had to work through. Our fellow Bulldog Battalion did an excellent job taking us under their wing and showing us the ropes, quite literally at times. In two weeks time,

we had learned enough to finish better than a third of the teams. I think this was quite an accomplishment and I am proud to say I was a part of the team that did it. It was definitely an experience of a lifetime and will not soon be forgotten,” said Cadet William Barksdale. ■

Students honor veterans of OEF/OIF

By Maj. Michele Tasista

Det. 045, San Jose State University, Calif.

Since the horrific terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, more than one million Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have passed through the U.S. Central Command Area of Operations in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

To honor the men and women who have served in these operations, San Jose State University officials, in partnership with Air Force ROTC Det. 045, organized and sponsored the first OEF/OIF recognition luncheon in November. Veteran attendees included Reserve, Guard and active-duty San Jose State University students, from different branches of the Armed Forces who had served in these operations.

"It is very heartwarming to say thank you to those who served in the war ... I have enormous respect for them," said Don Kassing, San Jose State University president.

Dr. Jonathan Roth, the Director of the History Department at San Jose State University, was the source of inspiration for the event which has been planned for nearly a year.

Dr. Roth, the son of a World War II infantry officer, and six-year Army National Guard veteran, expressed a deep appreciation for the service and sacrifice of those who have served in the Global War on Terrorism.

"I believe strongly in what we're doing there in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that we've liberated those nations. We've offered them the opportunity to create democratic institutions for themselves," said Dr. Roth.

The war has hit home in a tragic and personal way for the military history buff. Dr. Roth lost his life-long best friend and published au-



Courtesy photo

Cadet Chris Do (left) holds a rifle as Cadet Jon Hevia salutes the American flag during a color guard performance to honor veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom in November.

thor of "In the Red Zone," Steven Vincent, who was working on his second book on the Iraq war when he was kidnapped and killed five weeks ago by insurgents.

Dr. Roth said the loss further underscored the importance of the ongoing mission in Iraq and the community's role in showing appreciation to returning service members for their contributions and sacrifices.

"We as a community should honor those of our students who have and will serve in Iraq," said Roth, who also complimented the professionalism of the Air Force ROTC cadets and cadre, and recognized the importance of their presence on campus and support for this event

during his introductory remarks.

Maj. P. Van Ipson, Aerospace Studies assistant professor, was the guest speaker for the luncheon.

"It is an honor to represent the young military members, who've served honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan, here on campus, and at the same time, have the campus recognize these students for their heroic service to this nation," said Major Ipson.

One of the attendees was San Jose State University Film, Radio and Television student Sgt. Walter Talens, a field support infantry Soldier, who was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division while he served 18 months in Iraq. A significant portion

of his deployment included a tour in Fallujah.

"It was a tough experience, and I was glad to make it through. It tested everyone there," said Sergeant Talens.

"It feels great to be appreciated by this university. Coming back to academic life has been a challenge, but being deployed gave me a new perspective — things we take for granted, Iraqis do not have, such as education," he added.

The sacrifice of everyday Soldiers and the university's show of appreciation of those sacrifices is invaluable, said Sergeant Talens.

During the luncheon, a rendition of the National Anthem was sung a cappella by university student Christie Hageman.

Det. 045 Cadets Jon Hevia, Brian Towne, Chris Do and Nathan Kirschke presented the colors.

"It's an honor to provide the color guard for this event," said Cadet Do, an Aerospace Engineering major at San Jose State University. He said that serving in the military and presenting the colors is a family tradition.

"Ever since I was a kid, my dad would take me to veterans' recognition events and my dad often participated in the color guard," said Cadet Do.

His appreciation for those who have served in the ongoing war against terrorism runs deep and on a personal level, in a way few can understand.

"My dad was a prisoner of war and Vietnam War veteran, which is one of the reasons I joined ROTC," said Cadet Do. "It's always an honor to represent Det. 045," he added.

The importance of cadets' participation in such events can't be overstated, according to Maj. Ipson.

"This is a great opportunity for the cadets to give back to the community and peers on campus, and learn firsthand from those who've served this country," he said. ■

Switching from blue to green

Det. 730, University of Pittsburgh, Pa.



Courtesy photo

2nd Lt. Justin Webb stands in front of the Heinz Chapel on the University of Pittsburgh campus with Det. 730 cadre members in July after his commissioning ceremony.

A former Air Force ROTC cadet attended the Army's Engineer Officer Basic Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in October as a part of the Blue to Green program.

Second Lt. Justin Webb began his college career as an aerospace engineering major at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Fla., in fall of 2001 with a college scholarship to Air Force ROTC Det. 157. Then in fall 2002, he transferred to the University of Pittsburgh, where he changed his major to mechanical engineering.

While attending the University of Pittsburgh, Lieutenant Webb maintained a rigorous physical training schedule and developed strong leadership skills. He was always upbeat and squarely on track to be an Air Force lieutenant, but his background lead him down another path. He jumped at the chance to crossover to the Army when Air Force announced the Blue to Green program in January.

Lieutenant Webb's father had

been in the Army's elite 82nd Airborne Division. Justin's blood ran a little "greener" than your typical Air Force cadet; he had Army blood in him. After much thought, he asked the detachment's cadre if he could complete his education through Air Force ROTC with his buddies, but commission into the Army. Air Force said yes.

As a result, Lieutenant Webb was commissioned on July 15 as one of the first Blue to Green program volunteers. However, he was not an Army of one because by his side was the entire Air Force cadre from Det. 730.

Lieutenant Webb finished second in his Army Airborne and Army Ranger training class. He returned to the University of Pittsburgh in November to help recruit Soldiers for the Army and to explain the Blue to Green program to perspective applicants.

He is currently stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. with his father's old unit, the 82nd Airborne Division. ■

Recruited by the best



Photo by Ralph McFadden

Air Force Junior ROTC unit TX-921 drill team from San Marcos High School, San Marcos, Texas, performed at the Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service Bluesuit arrival ceremony. The Bluesuit award is given to the top 12 recruiters in the country for each fiscal year. The detachment, commanded by retired Master Sgt. J.J. Miller, provided a color guard and a saber team for the event. ■

Cadets present colors at NFL game

FL-931, Coral Springs High School, Fla.

Forest High School's Junior ROTC unit posted the colors during a National Football Conference playoff game between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Washington Redskins, at Raymond James Stadium in Florida, Jan. 7.

They cadets represented their school and Air Force Junior ROTC in front of a sold out crowd of 65,000 people and about 20 million television viewers.

During the pre-game show the cadets were treated to a personal

tour of the football stadium, including the ship in Buccaneer cove, accompanied by pirates and cheerleaders.

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for Cadets Kristy Roath, Leah Fletcher, Christy Mann, Michelle Pilarczyk and Andrea Micheo, who spent many hours preparing for the event.

"It was a true honor to even be asked to present the colors during the season, but for them to consider us for the play-off game was amazing. We are proud to serve our country by presenting the colors and promoting the Junior ROTC program to our nation," said Cadet Kristy Roath. ■



Building better citizens, one cadet at a time

CT-20021, Torrington High School, Conn.

The objective of Junior ROTC is to build better citizens for America and cadets from Torrington High School, Conn., have upheld this mission through numerous voluntary events.

In one particular event in November, 42 Torrington High School Junior ROTC cadets volunteered to help their local heroes; firemen, police officers, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, in a citywide mock crash that simulated a bus full of school children — played by cadets — as victims of a vehicular rollover.

These cadets helped the community recognize the importance of emergency medical first responders and that time is crucial during a mass casualty event.

“The mock crash gave us an opportunity to help give something back to our local police and fire departments. We were not only able to help out in an exercise that was necessary for the town’s emergency response training, but also had an enjoyable time doing so,” said Cadet Bethany Carpenter.

In addition to volunteering at the citywide mock accident, the cadets also donated blood to aide the local Red Cross. The cadets showed no fear and were willing to help those in need once again.

The local food bank was another project in which the cadets participated in to help the community. Last spring, the cadets gathered canned food items for FISH Inc., the Torrington area food bank. Lasting for a total of eight days, the food drive ended with a total of 1,190 jars, cans



Courtesy photos

Cadet Michael Bogle acts injured as emergency personnel prepare to place him in an ambulance during a citywide mock crash in November at Torrington, Conn.

and boxes of provisions. Cadets were divided into three groups, A, B, and C flights, each attempting to outdo each other in terms of food collection. When the final cache of donations was tallied, A flight had gathered 319 food articles, B flight with 357 items, and C flight won the challenge with 515 items.

“When we learned that the local food banks were low on food, we decided to help the community by donating as much food as possible to the food banks. This not only helped the food banks but also the cadets by fulfilling the Junior ROTC mission of building better citizens of America,” said Cadet Aaron Canciani.

Three cadets participated in the annual Penguin Plunge at Highland Lake, Torrington, Conn., Feb. 4. The

cadets, along with hundreds of others, raised money to help support the Connecticut Special Olympics. This was a first for the cadets, but they said it was very fulfilling and fun.

“The water was freezing, but it was for a great cause,” said Cadet Justin Slobuszewski.

The cadets are looking forward to continuing their participation in the Litchfield Hills Annual Penguin Plunge for years to come.

Torrington High School’s principal Veronica LeDuc said the cadets who are enrolled in the Junior ROTC program clearly understand the obligation of civic duty. The cadets are proof that Junior ROTC is building better citizens for America, said retired Col. Robert Gabor, CT-20021 senior aerospace science instructor. ■

Junior ROTC unit receives first staff assistance visit

By Cadet Cynthia Kraft

TN-793, William Blount High School, Tenn.

A Maryville, Tenn., high school Junior ROTC program received their first staff assistance visit in October.

Retired Col. Gary Chilcott, Junior ROTC area eight administrator, traveled to William Blount High School, home of TN-793, to conduct the one-day evaluation.

"The purpose of the visit is to make certain that the corps is on task and doing well," said Colonel Chilcott. "More importantly, the visit gives positive encouragement to the cadets and instructors and suggests ideas that could make the corps even better.

The initial evaluation was not graded; however, the corps worked hard to prepare for the staff assistance visit. Each cadet staff member received a list of tasks they had to complete before the visit.

"Everyone in the military is evaluated at some point or another," said Col Chilcott. "It's part of Air Force tradition to share ideas and be positive."

During the visit Colonel Chilcott examined cadet ambition, dress and appearance, corps management, cadet interaction and cadet-instructor interaction.

The senior staff briefed Colonel Chilcott on TN-793's goals and community activities, while cadets introduced themselves and informed him of their corps duties and personal goals.

"The briefing blew me away. I was very impressed," said Colonel



Courtesy photo

Junior ROTC units are being inspected by regional area administrators to ensure the units meet certain standards and to gather feedback from the units to headquarters Junior ROTC. "The staff assistance visit's purpose is to make sure we are all on the same sheet of music," said retired Col. Wade Williford, a regional area administrator.

Chilcott. "It really set the stage for the rest of the day."

The unit's 10th graders showed Colonel Chilcott a drill sequence commanded by Cadet Thomas Mausser. Cadet Alexandra Tacy was unexpectedly appointed to take command of the drill team.

"The sophomores were outstanding under Mausser, but reacted very well when command was switched to Tacy," said retired Master Sgt. Brian Kauffman, aerospace science instructor.

After the visit, Cadets Kaitlyn Sweppenheiser, Caleb Palmer, and Hope Cronin were recognized by Colonel Chilcott as top performers with an award given by area ad-

ministrators.

Colonel Chilcott said he was impressed by the unit's ambitious goals and uniform wear.

"The things that surprised me were all the goals the unit has and the total involvement of the cadets," said Colonel Chilcott. "It is exceptional."

Colonel Chilcott has been a part of the Staff Assistance Visit Program since it began a year ago.

He is responsible for 102 Air Force Junior ROTC units in 10 states to include Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, New York, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Virginia. He visits 50 to 60 units a year. ■

Success never tasted so good

UT-081, Clearfield High School, Utah



Courtesy photo

From left to right, Cadets Jeryka Musselman, Ashley LaPrelle and Tenise Leedom add spices to their chili in October.

Clearfield High School Junior ROTC cadets raised money through a chili cook-off to support families of deployed military personnel.

After participating for the past five years, the cadets finally won first place in the Northern Utah Chapter's Air Force Association Chili Cook-off in October. The 11th Annual Chili Cook-off, held at the Hill Air Force Base Museum, Utah, is a fundraiser for the Hill Air Force Base Family Support Center.

The competition lasted four hours. Not only did the team win the top chili dish, they also placed third in the presentation category. The Junior ROTC Cadet Chili Team was led by their team captain, Cadet Kaylynn Leavitt. The other mem-

bers include Cadets Tenise Leedom, Jeryka Musselman, Danielle Tapia, Ashley LaPrelle, Natasha Leedom and Amber Wendt.

The cadets competed against seasoned cooks from active-duty and civil service organizations at Hill Air Force Base, teams from local Senior ROTC units at Utah State University and the University of Utah, teams from local defense contractors, and the teams from the community.

"It was great to see the cadets have such a great time for such a great cause. They put in a lot of work preparing for this competition, so it is a real highlight to see them compete in a winning effort," said retired Maj. Kit Workman, UT-081 senior aerospace science instructor. ■

Cadets learn outdoor survival skills

ME-891, Lewiston High School, Maine

Lewiston High School, Maine, cadets were taught the importance of the right mental attitude when facing a crisis. It's called the will to live, and it is an essential component of survival.

The unit's instructors, Lt. Col. Robert Meyer and Master Sgt. Tom Noury, took 19 cadets on a weekend field trip in January to the deep woods of Maine to learn how to survive in the winter elements.

"We thought it would be a fun learning experience to embrace the cold weather and teach the students about the essentials of survival," said Colonel Meyer.

Students learned about emergency fire building, improvised shelter construction and how to procure food and water from the outdoors.

"Our hope is that if any of these

cadets find themselves lost or stranded in the outdoors, that they will have the will and know how to survive until rescued," said Sergeant Noury.

It may sound like it was only for the strong of heart to bear the deep cold of Maine's winter, but the students enjoyed unseasonably warm weather and spent the evenings in heated log cabins. "We wanted to make it educational and fun. I remember the Air Force Survival School being very educational, but not a lot of fun," said Colonel Meyer. ■

Right: Lewiston High School Junior ROTC cadets prepare for a cross country march using a compass and map to navigate through the terrain Jan. 21. Because the temperature had dropped to 20 degrees, the cadets renamed the journey the winter death march.

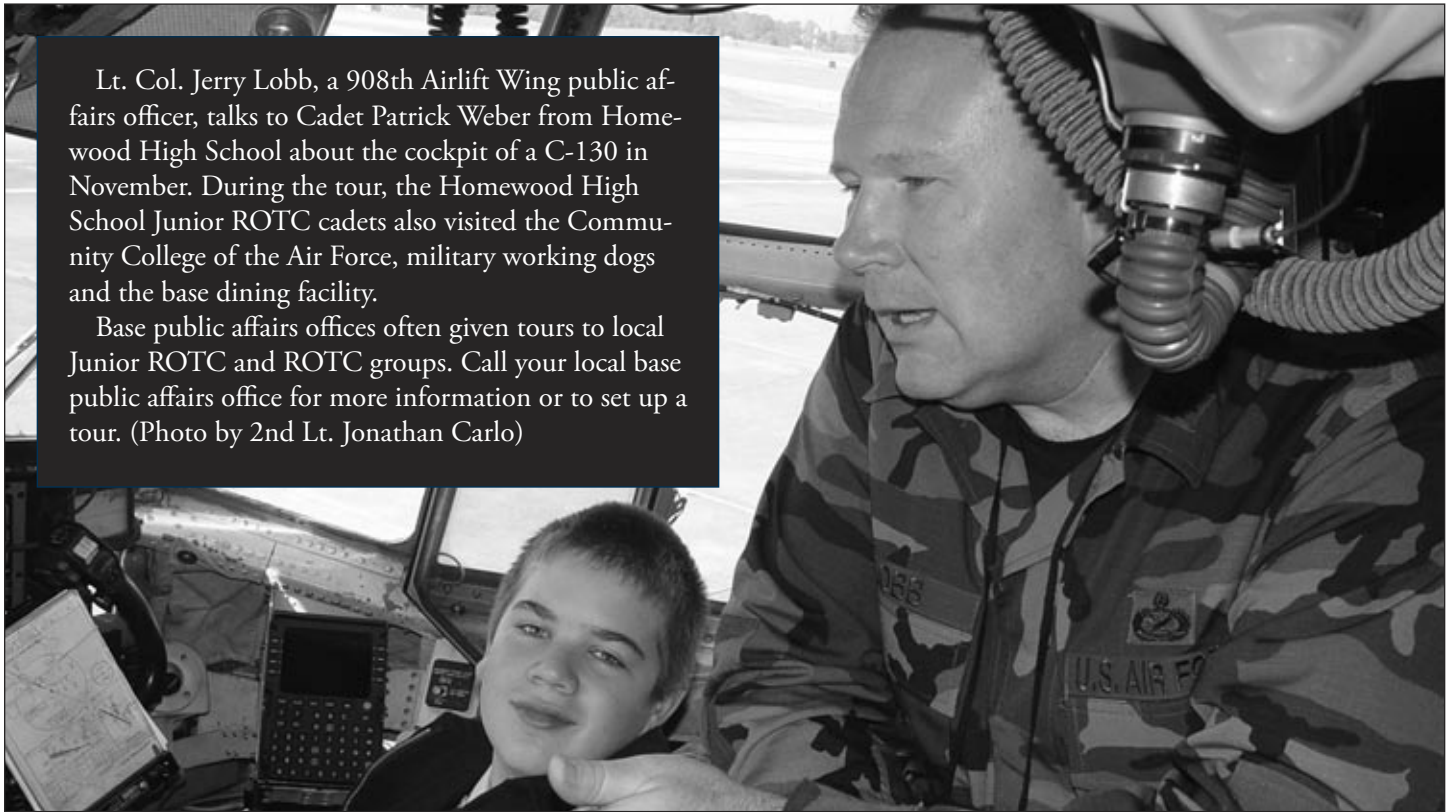


Courtesy photo

Cadets benefit from base tours

Lt. Col. Jerry Lobb, a 908th Airlift Wing public affairs officer, talks to Cadet Patrick Weber from Homewood High School about the cockpit of a C-130 in November. During the tour, the Homewood High School Junior ROTC cadets also visited the Community College of the Air Force, military working dogs and the base dining facility.

Base public affairs offices often given tours to local Junior ROTC and ROTC groups. Call your local base public affairs office for more information or to set up a tour. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Jonathan Carlo)



Clean up on Highway 90

By Cadet Rachel Garcia

TX-20009, Medina Valley High School, Texas



Courtesy photo

Junior ROTC cadets from Medina Valley High School, Texas, paved the way for future motorists.

The cadets adopted two miles of U.S. Highway 90 from DeCock Farms to Castroville, Texas. They cleaned up the highway Jan. 24 as part of the state's Adopt-A-Highway program.

For about an hour and a half the 25 cadets, in groups of five, lined the roadside to pick up garbage. The clean up became a miniature competition between the five groups. Each team's was scored on the number of trash bags collected. The winning team gathered a total 12 bags, and was rewarded with a meal from a popular fast food restaurant. The remaining four teams helped to gather 20 bags of trash, and they received a free drink for their efforts.

Adopting a highway is one of the various projects the cadets engage in throughout the year to help build stronger communities with strong values. ■

*The Indiana University
ROTC Joint Color Guard
leads the IU Homecom-
ing Parade in October.
(Courtesy photo)*



The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a compact, multi-role fighter aircraft. It is highly maneuverable and has proven itself in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack. It provides a relatively low-cost, high-performance weapon system for the United States and allied nations.

(Photo by Master Sgt. John E. Lasky)

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